

Strategies / Things to Remember

. Look ahead

- . on the score, when reading
- . in mind, when improvising / playing from memory

. Mind is the leader; **fingers follow mind**

- . Don't let fingers guess-->correct-->guess-->correct
- . Force yourself to imagine the notes before playing

. **Decide practice or performance** mode before starting

- . if mistake in performance mode
 - . mistakes are ok!
 - . keep beat no matter what
 - . reset to *next* measure if necessary
- . if mistake in practice mode
 - . pause hands; figure out what to change
 - . go back 1 measure; play through 3 times
 - . don't fix as you play and keep going

. **Use metronome**

- . unless you're in play/pause mode
- . turn on beat counting "1, 2, 3, 4" or downbeat click
 - . so you stay with meter, not just beat
- . choose a speed where
 - you can play btw "ok" and "almost perfect"
- . if you get "ok", next make 1 click faster;
- . if you get "almost perfect", 2-3 clicks faster
- . increase speed til you're faster than you need to be

. **Always have a goal** before playing. Examples:

- . get through hard spot
- . increase speed
- . improve intonation
- . play expressively

. **Imagine as you play.**

. Fingering

- . Where will your hands need to cover?
- . Switch / shift at easy spots
- . Choose fingering **that will also work fast**
- . Should be able to play with **eyes closed**

. Always be trying something **slightly too hard**

- . Your job is just to try hard in a useful way
- . Effort is the language of the body
- . **Useful effort** --> improvement while you sleep

. What makes someone good at reading?

- . Looking ahead
- . Understanding: words and sentences
- . Seeing chunks, patterns
- . Characterful voice
- . Good reading role models
- . Creative interpretation

. When you perform

- . new problems will arise
- . practice performing
- . perform slower than you think
- . still make your mind the leader

. Improving requires a challenge:

- . it should feel a little uncomfortable or effortful!
- . But also fun

Self-check

Listen for

- . Steady beat/count
- . Correct pitches
- . Intonation
- . Dynamics
- . Articulation
- . Good fingering
- . **Good storytelling**

When you can't think of anything to improve,

. **Record yourself**

- . listen back for "listen for", above
 - . mark in score spots to improve
- . don't waste time recording and listening :)
 - . record when you're not sure how to make more progress

You Are Awesome!

We are so proud of you <3